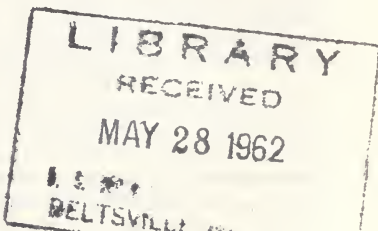


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

MAY 1962
Vol. 46, No. 5

Statistical Reporting Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Agricultural Situation

THE FARMER—USDA CROP REPORTING TEAM IS 100 YEARS OLD

1862



Of all the needs that the United States Department of Agriculture now strives to satisfy in today's agricultural economy, the need for accurate, up-to-date statistics was the first and perhaps the most important to arise.

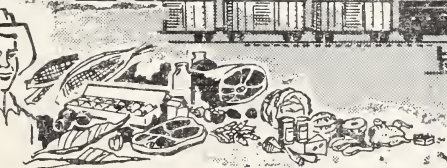
PLEASE MAIL BY
JANUARY 1 1962

FARM REPORT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service



C.F. 2-110	
Ohio, Ind., Ill., Minn., Iowa, Mo., N. Dak., S. Dak., Nebr., Kans., W. Va.	
Please Answer These Questions For The Farm or Ranch You Operate	Answer here
CROP PRODUCTION AND STOCKS	
CORN produced on this farm or ranch last year (1961 crop): 70 lb. ear or 56 lb. shelled BUSHELS	
CORN on this farm or ranch Jan. 1, 1962: 70 lb. ear or 56 lb. shelled BUSHELS	
WHEAT produced on this farm or ranch last year (1961 crop): 60 pound BUSHELS	
ALL WHEAT on this farm or ranch	



1962

Many years before the Department was established people realized that something should be done about collecting current information on crop prospects during the growing season. Speculators were spreading rumors of good or lean years in order to manipulate the prices they paid and the prices they received for farm commodities.

As early as 1839 some attempts were made to collect agricultural statistics, and in 1862 Orange Judd, editor of the *American Agriculturist*, sent out a forerunner of today's crop reporting questionnaire to his subscribers. In it he made five inquiries on crop production (one for each month from May to September). He published the results that year and went on to demonstrate that systematic, unbiased crop reports were not only feasible but necessary for orderly production and marketing.

Judd based his national estimates on the reports of from 1,000 to 1,500 crop correspondents. It was his hope that the Federal Government would see the value of his little crop reporting system and carry on the job he had begun. The Government did make provisions to do exactly that with the establishment of the United States Department of Agriculture in:

1862—USDA was established by the Act of May 15, and responsibility for agricultural statistical work was transferred from the Patent Office to the Commissioner of Agriculture. Monthly or bimonthly reports on the condition of crops, based upon voluntary reports from crop correspondents, were begun the next year.

These milestones in the history of crop reporting marked its growth and gradual improvement:

1866—Regular reports were begun on condition, acreage, yield per acre, and production of important crops and the number of livestock.

1896—A corps of crop reporters, known as township reporters, was established.

1899—The MONTHLY CROP REPORTER was established to give instructions and supplementary agricultural statistics to crop reporters. The next year its scope was broadened to include the Monthly Crop Report, and it was made available to the public.

1900-1914—Crop specialists and regional field agents were appointed for personal field observation and inquiry.

1903—The Bureau of Statistics was organized through a merger of the Division of Statistics and the Division of Foreign Markets.

1905—The Crop Reporting Board was organized.

1908—A monthly collection of prices of farm products was begun.

1909—Laws were enacted safeguarding Government crop reports so that information was not leaked before the reports were released.

1911—Reports of crop acreages on crop reporters' individual farms were used as indications of acreage changes.

1914—The Bureau of Statistics was reorganized and redesignated the Bureau of Crop Estimates. Full-time State agricultural statisticians were appointed, their duties combining those of the former State statistical agents and regional field agents. Truck Crop reports were initiated.

1917—The first formal agreement was made with a State (Wisconsin) for cooperative crop and livestock reporting.

1919—The first objective field counts were made by the Agricultural Statistician in South Carolina. Data were collected concerning poultry numbers.

1921—The Bureaus of Markets and Crop Estimates were merged to form

The Agricultural Situation is sent free to crop, livestock, and price reporters in connection with their reporting work.

The Agricultural Situation is a monthly publication of the Statistical Reporting Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. The printing of this publication has been approved by the Bureau of the Budget (January 8, 1959). Single copy 5 cents, subscription price 50 cents a year, foreign \$1, payable in check or money order to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

the Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates.

1922—The pig survey, through rural mail carriers, was made for the first time. The Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates was combined with the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics to form the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

1923—Livestock reporting work was organized.

1924—Acreage surveys through rural mail carriers were initiated.

1925—The development of the "crop meter" (that could be attached to an automobile) made measurement of crop acreage changes easier.

1926—Quarterly estimates of farm stocks of grain were started.

1929—Practical application of correlation methods to forecasts of crop production was made.

1932—Decentralization of crop reporter address lists from Washington to the States was virtually completed and dual reporting was discontinued.

1938—The agricultural estimating work was transferred to the new agency to be called the Agricultural Marketing Service. Seed estimates work was consolidated and expanded under the Crop Reporting Board. Statistics and reports on manufactured dairy products were transferred to the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates and expanded in coverage.

1942—The Division of Agricultural Statistics was transferred from the Agricultural Marketing Service to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

1943—Quarterly estimates of stocks of grains and oilseeds in all positions were initiated.

1952—The first appropriation for research and development of new crop sampling and estimating techniques was made.

1953—Reorganization of the Department of Agriculture reestablished the Agricultural Marketing Service and gave it the responsibility for crop and livestock estimating. Cold storage reports were transferred to the Agricultural Estimates Division and a program of improvement started.

1957—At the request of the Agricultural Appropriations Committee, a long-range plan for the development and strengthening of the service was presented to the Congress.

1961—Congress appropriated \$750,000 to be used in placing the first phase of the Long-Range Plan into full operation in 15 States.

1961—The reorganization of the Department of Agriculture established the Statistical Reporting Service with the continuing responsibility for crop and livestock estimating.

Today crop reporting is carried on by 600,000 experienced farmers and ranchers in the United States who are crop reporters, as well as by 70,000 local merchants; 6,000 ginneries; 14,000 mills, elevators, and warehouses; 4,000 hatcheries; 41,000 dairy plants; and 9,600 meat packers who all supply additional statistical data. These people help to maintain one of the best informed agricultural economies in the world.

Farm Population Now 14,800,000

There were 14,803,000 people living on farms in the United States in 1961, or about one person out of every 12 in the total population. This is the smallest farm population of recent record. From 1960 to 1961, the number of farm people decreased by about 830,000 as the movement away from farms more than offset the growth that would have taken place from births.

Nonwhite farm people numbered 2,346,000. They account for $\frac{1}{6}$ of the

total, but because of their concentration in the South make up $\frac{3}{10}$ of all Southern farm residents.

The farm population is a young group in that it has a high proportion of children and teen-aged youths; 43 percent of all farm people are under 20 years old. On the other hand, among adults it is low on people 20 to 44 years old, because of their high rate of recent out-

(Continued on page 8)

Agricultural Situation

FORTY YEARS SINCE VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 1922

Vol. I, No. 1.

We introduce herewith a little innovation in our departmental publications. This sheet will hereafter take the place of our former "Agricultural Situation" and will be published monthly under the broad "Monthly Bulletin of Farm Management and Farm Economics".

The interest stimulated among economists by the internal agricultural "Monthly Bulletin" has led to the belief that a publication of this kind, one that developed as an "Agricultural Bulletin" and not as a "Monthly Bulletin" might be of still greater interest and service to farmers and men in this field.

The purpose back of this sheet is to present in very terse form, such statistics and facts as will enable a busy man to get some idea of the economic situation in which agriculture finds itself relative to other great groups of producers. In other words, for (as it is put, in a brief, informal way, the economic trends in agriculture).

The reorganization of the three bureaus dealing mainly with economic investigations goes into effect as of this date. The Bureau of Livestock, Crop Estimates, and Farm Management are thus consolidated into the new Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The new Bureau is organized into six Divisions which will carry on the established major lines of investigation. In addition other plans will be given attention, dealing with important public problems attendant upon the development of American agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL • SITUATION •

NOVEMBER 1939

A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions

Issued Monthly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture

Subscription price, 10 cents per copy; single copy, 5 cents. Single copies, 10 cents payable in advance to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 11 - WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN THIS ISSUE

Unwashed Wool	1	Wheat	1	Wheat	1
Washed Wool	2	Barley	2	Barley	2
Barley	3	Oats	3	Oats	3
Oats	4	Rye	4	Rye	4
Rye	5	Hay	5	Hay	5
Hay	6	Feed Grains	6	Feed Grains	6
Feed Grains	7	Vegetables	7	Vegetables	7
Vegetables	8	Fruit	8	Fruit	8
Fruit	9	Livestock	9	Livestock	9
Livestock	10	Poultry	10	Poultry	10
Poultry	11	Swine	11	Swine	11
Swine	12	Other Animals	12	Other Animals	12
Other Animals	13	Summary	13	Summary	13
Summary	14	Index	14	Index	14

OUTLOOK is for stronger demand for farm products in 1940. Larger volume of marketing, higher average prices, and increased farm cash income from marketing are in prospect. Government payments will be about the same as in 1939. Prices received by farmers probably will be higher relative to prices paid than during the last 2 years. Farm wage rates and other costs of production may average a little higher than in 1939. But receipts less expenditures will be larger. Agricultural production for market in 1940 may be slightly larger than in 1939. Prospects for increased output of meat animals and vegetables, and smaller production of tobacco. Production of grains and cotton will depend largely on growing conditions which are unpredictable at this time. Output of dairy and poultry products will be affected by the relation of feed prices to prices of livestock products. Little change in feed price is expected in view of ample supplies. Meanwhile there are abundant supplies of food, feed, and fibers to satisfy domestic and foreign requirements.

First issue of AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

The cover looked like this in 1939.



THE Agricultural Situation

AUGUST 1955

Volume 39, Number 8

Get Ready for Storage, Grain Farmers Urged

IN VIEW of the crops of grain expected this year the Department of Agriculture is urging farmers to get ready to provide the additional storage space they will need.

Pointing to the July Crop Report estimate, T. D. Moore, Under Secretary of Agriculture, warned that grain storage will be tight again this year.

Poor grain production, he said, "will be especially heavy. The 1955 corn crop is now expected to be the second largest of record July estimate, about 2 1/2 billion bushels. The oats crop is also estimated to be the second largest as have harvested, a bulk factor and grain movement may be at all-time record levels.

Conveyers Large

"In addition to the approximately one billion bushels of soft crop corn expected to be on hand when the new harvest starts October 1, we all should have needed conveyers of most other grain."

But the grain group as a whole, including soybeans and flaxseed, is estimated that there will be about 360 million bushels more than a year ago in total reserve stocks before 1955 crops come in. This all adds to the storage pressure.

The final outcome of this year's production will determine just how tight the situation will be. However the July Crop Report indicates that there is storage trouble ahead.

"I cannot over too strongly that farmers—especially in the Corn Belt—start planning now to buy or build any additional storage they may need. Adequate storage on the farm makes possible more effective farm management. It also enables the producer to take

OUTLOOK Highlights

- Trends: Cattle Productivity..... 2
- Livestock: Swine Production..... 3
- "Best" Newell's Letter..... 4
- Market: Pork-Livestock Price..... 5
- "Pine-Cand" Tobacco..... 6
- Production and Recent Trends..... 7
- How Prices are Determined..... 8
- Fruit and Vegetable Growers Protected by the Perishable Act..... 11
- Against Perishable Food..... 13
- Reserve: Farm - Value..... 14

Published Monthly by the Agricultural Marketing Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Agricultural Situation


MARCH 1962
Vol. 46, No. 3

Statistical Reporting Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

MORE CATTLE, HOGS, AND CHICKENS—FEWER SHEEP AND TURKEYS

The past January 3, there were 2 percent more cattle on farms and ranches than a year earlier. Hog numbers were up 3 percent and the number of chickens, excluding commercial broilers, was up 1 percent. Sheep numbers were down 3 percent, and turkey numbers were down 4 percent.

The total inventory value of livestock and poultry on January 1, 1962, was \$1.8 billion, up 3 percent from a year earlier and 17 percent above the 1951 average.



STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

This format was changed in 1955. .

to this format which is used today.

Those of you who have been crop, livestock, and price reporters for a long time may remember much of the history of this little periodical.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION (which developed from the newsletter **MONTHLY NOTES**) first appeared on July 1, 1922. It was prepared for crop and livestock reporters and was put out by the then new Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The year 1922 also marked the beginning of the annual Outlook Conferences and outlook work—the basis of much of the economic research and data collection carried on by the Department today.

MONTHLY NOTES was not the first forerunner of the **AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**. One appeared as far back as 1866. A publication called the **MONTHLY REPORT OF STATISTICS** was begun that year and served a somewhat similar function to both today's monthly **CROP PRODUCTION REPORT** and **AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**.

In May 1899 the first issue of the **CROP REPORTER** was sent to crop

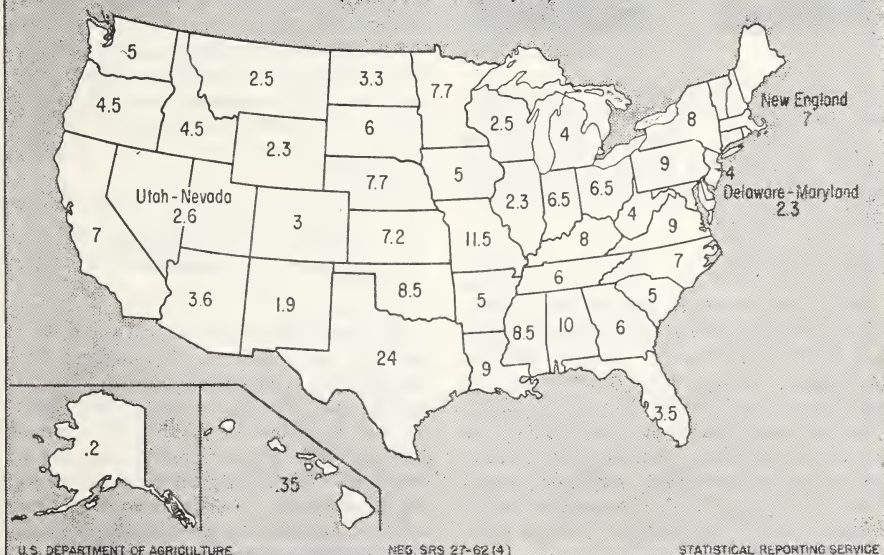
correspondents, as they were sometimes called. On June 19, 1913, the **CROP REPORTER** was discontinued and shortly after became a part of the publication **AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK**. Information on the agricultural situation did not become clearly defined until 1922 when **AGRICULTURAL SITUATION**, the Outlook Conference, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics emerged.

This pocket-size monthly magazine, produced at a cost of less than a cent a copy, is mailed to over 280,000 people throughout the United States.

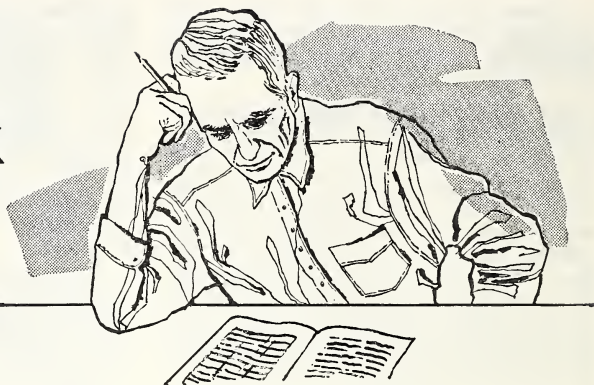
AGRICULTURAL SITUATION is printed at the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C. From there almost all of the copies are sent to State Statisticians in 43 State offices for release to their crop, livestock, and price reporters. Often "AG. SIT." is sent along with questionnaires used to collect basic data for crop, livestock, and price reports. This means that nearly all of you who get the little magazine had something to do with collecting the facts that go into it.

WHO GETS THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION ?

(in thousands of copies)



outlook



SOYBEANS

About 430 million bushels of soybeans are likely to be crushed this year—a new record and 7 percent above last year's crush. With exports expected to reach 170 million bushels, a carryover of around 55 million is likely this October 1. Such a carryover, though 49 million above a year earlier, would only represent about a month's requirement for crush and export.

EXPORTS



Exports of farm products this year may total around \$5 billion, about the same as in 1961. A drop is expected in cotton exports, but larger shipments of fats and oils and feed grains should be about offsetting.

FEED GRAINS

Supplies of feed grains and other concentrates in the 1962-63 season may be a little below the 256 million tons for 1961-62. Feed grain production in 1962 may be around the 1961 level, judging from March planting intentions and participation in the Feed Grain Program. Carryover into 1962-63, however, is expected to be somewhat below the record 85 million tons carried over in 1961-62.

LIVESTOCK

Fed cattle supplies through late spring and early summer will dip sharply below a year earlier, when beef output was exceptionally high, then rise above in late summer and fall. As supplies increase, some price weakness is likely. Prices are expected to average below year-earlier levels through the fall marketing period.

POTATOES

Prices are running materially lower than a year earlier because of larger stocks. But late spring supplies are expected to be much lower than a year earlier and prices to growers substantially higher. The spring intentions report indicates 7 percent less potato acreage for early summer harvest and 5 percent less for late summer and fall.

BROILERS



Broiler prices in mid-April were about the same as a year ago in southern producing areas, averaging about 14 cents per pound. Prices in the second quarter are expected to decline, but not as drastically as a year earlier because of prospects for 5 percent smaller per capita supplies. In the second quarter of 1961, broiler prices broke sharply with an upward surge in supplies.

EGGS

Prices for eggs have been under year-earlier levels since last August. They are likely to continue under year-earlier levels through the summer. This price weakness stems from larger output and less demand for storage than a year ago.

WHEAT

April 1 estimates set the winter wheat crop at 921 million bushels—14 percent below the 1961 crop but 5 percent above the 1951-60 average. Allowing for the spring crop, total 1962 wheat crop would be about 100 million bushels less than last year and the smallest harvest since 1957.

HOGS

Hog slaughter, up to early summer, will not change greatly. Currently it's nearly 4 percent larger than a year ago. The outlook for hog prices this summer and fall has improved since last December. The gain in the spring pig crop

likely will be smaller than earlier estimates. If so, hog prices this fall could average almost as high as last fall's prices.

MILK

Lower supports may slow down current rate of milk production through lower feeding rates and a prospective rise in cow slaughter the last half of 1962 over the same period last year. The first quarter rate of milk production was 2 percent more than a year earlier.

TOBACCO

Demand for cigarette tobaccos, mostly flue-cured and burley, is expected to continue strong in the 1962-63 season. Cigarette output will likely reach a new high in 1962 with leaf exports probably somewhat larger than a year earlier. In 1961 cigarette output reached 528 billion—up 4 percent from the preceding year. Filter tips accounted for 52½ percent and nonfilters for 47½ percent.

(continued on page 8)

CATTLE ON FEED INCREASE

On April 1 cattle feeders had 1 percent more cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market than a year earlier in the 26 major feeding States—North Central States, Western States, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and Texas. The number on feed totaled 7.2 million head in these States compared with 7.1 million head on April 1 last year. All of the increase in number on feed this April over a year earlier was in cattle weighing less than 900 pounds and occurred mostly in steers and steer calves.

The North Central region showed a 1 percent decrease in cattle on feed from April 1, 1961. In the 11 Western States there were 7 percent more cattle on feed on April 1. California, the ranking Western State, was up 12 percent.

The number on feed by weight groups showed those weighing less than 500 pounds were up 21 percent from April 1 last year; those weighing 500-699 pounds were up 5 percent; and

cattle weighing 700-899 pounds were 5 percent higher. The number in the 900-1,099 pound group was down 5 percent from a year earlier, and there were 25 percent fewer cattle weighing 1,100 pounds or over.

On April 1 cattle and calves that had been on feed less than 3 months were up slightly from a year earlier. Those on feed 3 to 6 months were up 2 percent, but the number on feed more than 6 months was down 2 percent.

Cattle and calves placed on feed during January through March totaled 1 percent more than the same period in 1961, but marketings of fed cattle during this period were up 5 percent.

Cattle feeders expect to market 3.4 million head of the cattle (on feed as of April 1) during April through June this year—2 percent less than were marketed during this period in 1961.

Dan L. Herbert
Statistical Reporting Service

LAST YEAR'S FARM FIRE LOSSES

During 1961 farm fire losses in the United States were estimated at \$163 million by the Farm Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. This figure represents a 1-percent decrease from the \$165 million for 1960, and an 8-percent decrease from the all-time high of \$174 million for 1959. In 1961, farm fire losses accounted for about one-seventh of the national fire loss.

The 1961 estimate was based on a combination of rates of change from 1960 in the farm fire loss experience of a sample of farmers' mutual fire insurance companies and in the valuation of farm buildings as furnished by crop reporters. The 1960 estimate was multiplied by the product of these two ratios to obtain the 1961 estimate of farm fire losses.

The fire loss rate was based on returns received from 238 farmers' mutual fire insurance companies. Questionnaires were mailed to 349 company secretaries, who were asked to furnish among other items, the volume of fire insurance in force and losses paid, for 1960 and 1961. For both years, loss rates were highest among the smaller and larger size companies; they were lowest for the medium-size companies. The lowest loss rates per \$100 of insurance were for companies in the Rocky Mountain States; the highest were for companies in the Southern States. Buildings accounted for about three-fourths of the dollar loss. On the average, fires seem to hit about 2 out of 100 farms every year.

POPULATION—Continued

migration. Farm people of late middle age or older ages outnumber young adults, a situation that is not found in the nonfarm population.

A high ratio of males to females continues to be a distinctive feature of the farm population. In 1961, there were 109 farm males for every 100 females, against only 97 males for every 100 females in the nonfarm population. It is not that farm families have an extra high number of boys. The surplus results from three main factors: (1) Girls tend to leave the farm sooner after finishing school than do boys, (2) there are few paid jobs in farming for women, and (3) at older ages widowed farm men often stay on the farm, but widowed women usually leave.

Among employed farm men, $\frac{3}{4}$ work entirely or primarily in agriculture, with the rest doing nonfarm work. However, of employed farm women only half now work in agriculture, including those who do unpaid work on the family farm. Nonfarm work by farm people is more common in the South than in the North and West.

Farm people are defined as those living on places with 10 or more acres of land and selling \$50 or more of farm products per year. A smaller place can qualify if \$250 worth of products are sold.

Calvin L. Beale
Economic Research Service

OUTLOOK—Continued

COTTON

About 7.7 million bales of cotton are likely to be carried over this August 1—about 500,000 bales larger than last year's carryover. Cotton supplies for 1961-62 include a crop of about 14.3 million bales, a beginning carryover of 7.2 million, and imports of around 200,000. Estimated disappearance includes mill consumption of 9.0 million and exports of 5.0 million.

WOOL

Farmers' prices have advanced slowly in response to a firm U.S. market demand for wool. They are expected to increase moderately through June, level off during the summer, and decline somewhat in the fall and winter.

GLENN D. SIMPSON SUCCEEDS S. R. NEWELL



Glenn D. Simpson, new Deputy Administrator of the Statistical Reporting Service as well as the Chairman of the Crop Reporting Board.

This signature will soon become familiar to all of the crop, livestock, and price reporters.

G. D. Simpson

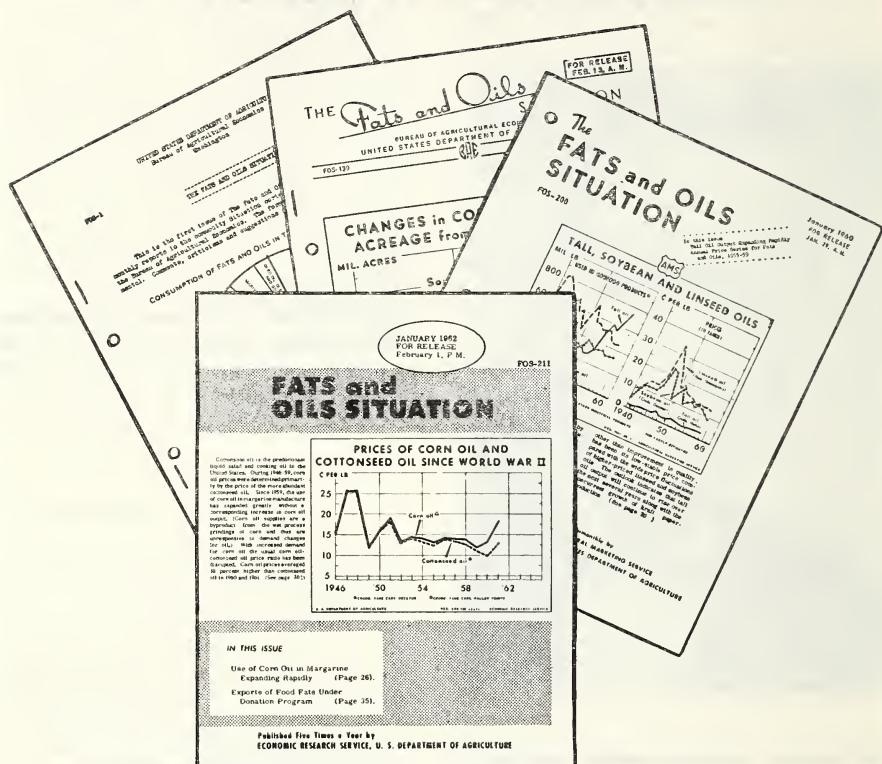
The new Deputy Administrator of the Statistical Reporting Service and Chairman of the Crop Reporting Board is Glenn D. Simpson, who has been Director of the Division of Field Operations. He succeeds S. R. "Bert" Newell, who retired on March 31 after 39 years of service.

Mr. Simpson, who was born in Wyoming, grew up in the western part of that State and on an irrigated farm in Idaho. He graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1932 and joined the staff of the agricultural statistician in Wyoming in 1934. Later he worked in the statistical service offices in New York State and in Iowa, as well as in Washington, D.C.

His positions have covered a wide range, including research in statistical methods, supervising the reporting of livestock statistics, and serving as Secretary of the Crop Reporting Board. In 1955, he was given the responsibility of supervising the 43 field offices which serve all States. During World War II, Mr. Simpson was an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, rising from lieutenant to lieutenant colonel.

Succeeding Mr. Simpson as Director of Field Operations will be Joseph A. Ewing, agricultural statistician in charge of the Illinois Crop Reporting Service.

THE FATS AND OILS SITUATION MARKS 25TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



The March 1962 issue of the Fats and Oils Situation marked the 25th anniversary of this USDA report. It grew out of commodity outlook reports, issued annually for a number of years, and was started in March 1937 to supply more economic information on a frequent and continuing basis.

The Fats and Oils Situation is published in January, March, May, August, and October (Outlook issue). It is issued by the USDA's Economic Research Service.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Fats and Oils Situation is to provide sound, timely economic information to oilseed producers and to those concerned with

the production, storage, processing, marketing, utilization, and export of oilseeds, peanuts, fats, oils, and their products. The information contained in the FOS is backed up by statistical work and examination of factors affecting supplies, demand, prices, distribution, utilization, and per capita consumption of both food and nonfood fats and oils.

Price analyses and forecasting are important aspects of commodity situation and outlook programs. Fats and oils come from a wide variety of sources, both domestic and foreign. Many are byproducts of other industries. Prices of these byproducts have little effect on output unless they drop so low that collection or processing is uneconomical. On the other hand, the

demand for many of the fats and oils industry products is relatively inelastic (a large percentage change in price is necessary to bring about a small percentage change in consumption). These factors tend to bring about sharp fluctuations in prices of fats, oils, and oilseeds.

For example, soybean prices to farmers changed as much as 55 percent during the 1960-61 marketing year. In order to appraise the situation for soybeans, the total supply-demand picture for all food fats and oilseed meals must be determined. This requires an analysis of the world situation, as this country is a major exporter (we currently account for about one-third of the world's trade in fats and oils), and our markets are greatly influenced by developments in Africa, China, Europe, India, Japan, and other parts of the world. A large amount of detailed data have to be assembled for these appraisals. The Fats and Oils Situation probably is the only comprehensive publication accessible to the public that presents an overall view. As such, it is of considerable value to producers, processors, other trade people, and Government officials.

Who Gets It?

About 4,300 copies of each issue of the Fats and Oils Situation are printed and distributed widely. Readers consist of the following major groups: Processors and manufacturers, 32 percent; individuals including farmers, 24 percent; Government, 13 percent; land grant colleges and the Extension Service, 12 percent; foreign countries and embassies, 7 percent; marketing firms, 5 percent; libraries, 4 percent; and financial houses, 3 percent.

Over the years, the Fats and Oils Situation has become more and more comprehensive. This has meant the development of new statistical series and data, coverage of additional items, examination of more factors affecting or relating to the fats and oils economy, and special research on various oilseeds, fats, and oils. This has led to a growing number of special articles on various aspects of one or more of the fats, oils, and oilseeds, particularly the minor oilseed crops and oils. The expanded coverage of information and analysis in the FOS has tended to keep pace with the rapid growth in the complex, diversified, fats and oils economy in the United States.

George W. Kromer
Economic Research Service

REFERENDUM SET FOR TURKEY MARKETING ORDERS

A national referendum of turkey growers has been called for June 18 through June 22 by Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman on a proposed marketing order for turkeys.

The order can be made effective by the Secretary if it is approved by two-thirds of the growers who vote in the referendum (by number or by volume of production).

The purpose of the order is to assure fair and reasonable prices to producers and consumers. If placed in effect, it will be binding upon all handlers (slaughterers) who handle more than 7,000 pounds (liveweight) of turkeys in a marketing year (February 1 through January 31).

Producer-growers who marketed more than 3,600 pounds of turkeys (liveweight) in 1961, and contract-producers who in 1961 had risk-of-loss contracts with producer-growers and marketed more than 3,600 pounds of turkeys will be eligible to vote.

Ineligible to vote are growers who marketed 3,601 pounds or less of turkeys (liveweight) in 1961, and producer-handlers who produced and handled not more than 100,000 pounds of turkeys (liveweight) in their own handling facilities in 1961, and who bought from or sold to others not more than 5,000 pounds of turkeys. Producer-handlers meeting these require-

ments would be exempt from all provisions of the order except record keeping and filing of reports.

However, all of the order's qualifications for a producer-handler must be met. Otherwise those engaged in producing and slaughtering their own turkeys are "producer-growers" under the order and are eligible to vote if they marketed more than 3,600 pounds (liveweight) of turkeys in 1961.

The proposed order applies to all States except Alaska and Hawaii. The referendum will be conducted by State and County Agricultural Stabilization

and Conservation Service (ASCS) Committees.

Polling places will be ASCS county offices in which producers' principal places of business are located. Applications for ballots will be mailed to all known eligible producers and will be available in county ASCS offices.

Producers should contact their ASCS county offices to determine their eligibility to vote and to certify the quantity of turkeys they marketed in 1961.

George F. Snell
*Agricultural Stabilization
and Conservation Service*



FARMERS PUT 48 MILLION ACRES IN FEED GRAIN AND WHEAT PROGRAMS

The 1962 feed grain and wheat programs (under which farmers have signed to divert more than 47.7 million acres from production this year) are aimed at achieving a better balance between production and needs for these crops.

More corn acreage has been signed for diversion this year than last and about the same acreage of grain sorghum. Corn acreage signed under the 1962 program has reached 22.9 million acres, nearly 2.8 million acres more than last year. Grain sorghum acreage signed is above 6.7 million acres, slightly over the 6.6 million signed last year.

Barley was included in the feed grain program for 1962, and about 3.1 million acres were signed up for diversion.

Final acreage diversions on which payments were made under the 1961 program were about 96.1 percent of the acreages signed for corn and about 94.2 percent of the grain sorghum acreage signed. If this year's operation follows the same pattern, most of the acreage now signed up would be held out of production this year.

Nearly 15.1 million acres of fall-and-spring-planted wheat have been signed for diversion into conserving practices in 1962. While all of the acreage signed up may not finally be taken out of production, harvested acreage in 1962 should be considerably below the average for recent years.

Basically, the programs for feed grain and wheat are similar. Farmers (for diverting acreage to conserving uses) receive payments to maintain their incomes during the period of production adjustments. The feed grain program is in its second year for corn and grain sorghum and in its first for barley. The 1962 program is the first stabilization payment program for wheat.

Permissible advance payments, that can be made to farmers at sign-up time, amount to about \$615 million for the four crops. Program provisions permit an advance payment amounting to about half of the total payment to be made.

Arthur T. Thompson
*Agricultural Stabilization
and Conservation Service*

FARM INCOME AND PRICES

STILL LOOK FAVORABLE FOR '62

In April the United States Department of Agriculture makes its annual reappraisal of how the farm economy will shape up for the year. The first estimate is made in November for the Outlook Conference.

Farm operators' realized net income during 1962 will probably total about the same as the improved level reached in 1961. Last year's realized net income of \$12.7 billion was \$1 billion more than in 1960, and the highest since 1953. The current outlook appraisal for agriculture parallels the estimates made last fall. Movements in prices and marketings of agricultural commodities during the first quarter of this year have followed the pattern anticipated at the November 1961 Outlook Conference.

Gross farm incomes in 1962 will likely rise some from the \$39.6 billion realized by farmers in 1961, reflecting a small increase in cash receipts from marketings of farm products and some further rise in Government payments. Livestock marketings will be larger and prices possibly slightly lower; crop marketings will likely be smaller and prices will average higher than in 1961. For the first three months of this year, total cash receipts about equaled those in the same period of 1961.

A further rise in farm production expenses, however, will likely offset the prospective gain in gross income. Prices paid for production items are expected to continue a little above 1961 and the uptrend in changes for taxes, interest, and farm wages is expected to continue during 1962. These appraisals assume present farm programs and announced price supports, average growing conditions, an expansion in the total demand for farm products, and no major change in the international situation.

Marketings of hogs, cattle and calves, and milk are expected to exceed last year's totals, with broiler and egg mar-

ketings not too different from a year earlier, and turkey marketings smaller. Marketings of crops may be smaller than in 1961 because of production cutbacks under the continued Feed Grain Program and the new 1962 Wheat Program. Furthermore, prospective crop plantings for 1962, as of March 1, indicated the smallest planted acreage since 1929, when records began. But with average growing conditions, the uptrend in crop yields is likely to have some offsetting effect.

Prices received by farmers are expected to average about the same this year as in 1961, with livestock product prices slightly lower and crop prices higher. In the first quarter of 1962 prices overall averaged the same as in the corresponding quarter a year earlier, with livestock product prices down about 2 percent and crop prices up by 3 percent. Somewhat lower prices during 1962 compared with 1961 are now indicated for hogs, eggs, and milk; cattle and broiler prices may average about the same; and sheep and lamb and turkey prices are likely to be higher. Prices for major crops, with the exception of oil-bearing crops and fruit are expected to average higher this year than last, reflecting either unchanged or higher support prices and improved supply conditions for several crops.

This year exports of agricultural products may total about the same as the \$5 billion value recorded in 1961. Although exports of cotton may be substantially less than last year, larger exports of fats and oils and feed grains are likely to be about offsetting.

Martin J. Gerra
Economic Research Service

The Farmer's Share

In February 1962 the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar was 39 cents, the same as it was in January. In February 1961 the farmer's share was 40 cents.

LOWER EGG PRICES

HELP KEEP CONSUMPTION UP

Between 1951 and 1961 per capita egg consumption dropped 17 percent despite a 21-percent drop in retail egg prices and a significant rise in consumer purchasing power. Even so, total use of eggs has remained fairly stable due to the growth in population. The drop in consumer demand for eggs has occurred for a number of reasons.

People apparently are eating smaller breakfasts that include fewer eggs, or exclude eggs altogether. Housewives generally feel that smaller breakfasts are adequate for most people not engaged in strenuous daily activity and tend to associate the use of eggs with larger breakfasts.

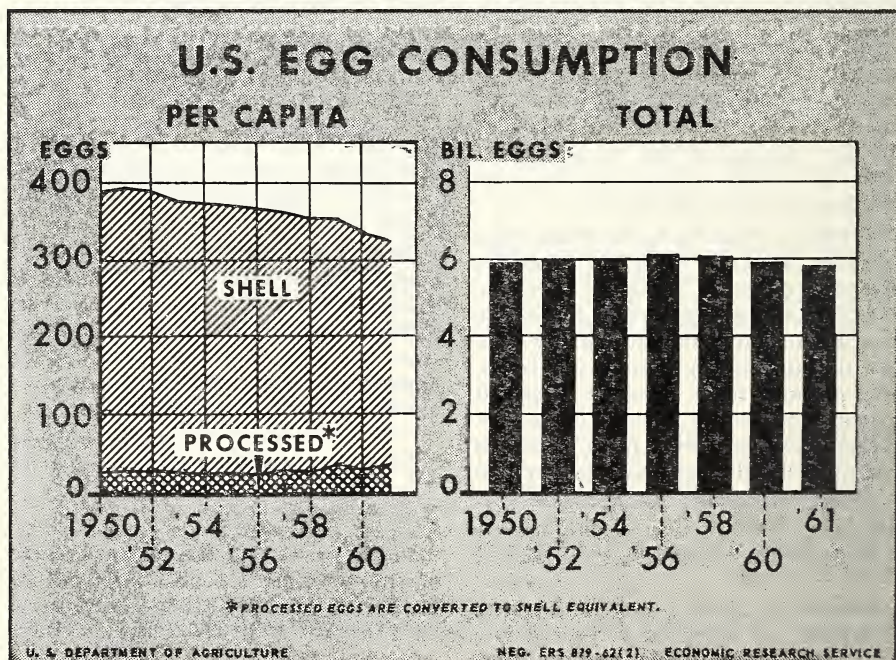
Also contributing to the decline in per capita egg consumption during the past decade has been the significant decrease in the proportion of the population raising chickens for egg production. People keeping a flock of chickens usually consume more eggs

per person than individuals who must purchase eggs.

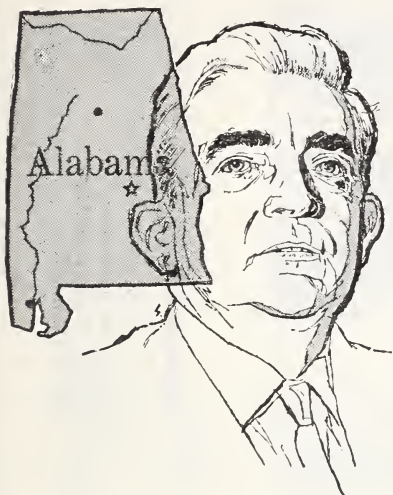
Even though consumers used only 326 eggs per capita in 1961 compared with 392 eggs in 1951, total consumption remained relatively stable from 1951 through 1959 because the 15 percent increase in population over this period offset per capita declines. However, in 1960 and 1961 the sharp drop in per capita use led to a significant decline in total egg consumption during these years.

The egg industry has been able to maintain total egg production at a relatively constant level because it has been successful in reducing costs of producing and marketing eggs. These reductions in costs have led to lower retail prices. These lower prices, in turn, have made consumers willing to use more eggs than they would have otherwise.

William C. Paddock
Economic Research Service



MEET THE STATE STATISTICIAN...



GEORGE STRONG

says, "it was just a way of earning money to stay in school; then it became a career."

George Strong won the county prize for algebra while he was attending high school and living on the family farm in Coweta County, Ga. Now he is Agricultural Statistician-in-Charge in Alabama. He heads up a cooperative effort of the Statistical Reporting Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

Of course, it didn't happen that simply—there was a time lag of over thirty years between the two events. Says Mr. Strong, "Winning that prize may have nudged me toward some kind of mathematical work, but I've always liked figures. And a farm boy who likes figures and likes people has a pretty good start toward becoming an agricultural statistician."

In George Strong's case, the "good start" was followed by several years of study at the University of Georgia, which awarded him a bachelor of science degree in 1932 and master of science degree in 1941. It was while he was an undergraduate student at the university that he was introduced to the methods of agricultural statistics, through a part-time job as a student trainee in the office of the Georgia agricultural statistician. "At first," he

His career in agricultural statistics was sidetracked while he worked as a county agricultural agent in Georgia a few months in 1934. He then joined the Georgia State staff of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration as a statistician. In 1939 he became a member of the staff of the Georgia Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Two years later he moved to Tennessee, and late in 1944 he moved to Washington, D.C., to join the national staff of the Crop Reporting Board, a tour of duty that lasted until 1953. This was followed by six years as a staff member of the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, and in 1959 he was put in charge of the Alabama office.

George Strong is enthusiastic about his adopted State, especially about Alabama's agriculture. "We're getting better balanced in our agriculture all the time," he says. "It used to be almost all cotton. Cotton is still the big crop, and Alabama ranks sixth among the States in production, but cotton represents a smaller share than it used to of the State's \$550 million a year in farm income. Alabama has climbed to third place in production of commercial broilers in recent years, producing nearly 200 million birds in 1961. Our beef cattle population has tripled in the last 20 years, and Alabama farmers earn about \$100 million a year from the sale of cattle and calves. Peanuts, potatoes, peaches, and watermelons also contribute notably to the Nation's supply of good eating and to the earnings of Alabama's 115,000 farm families."



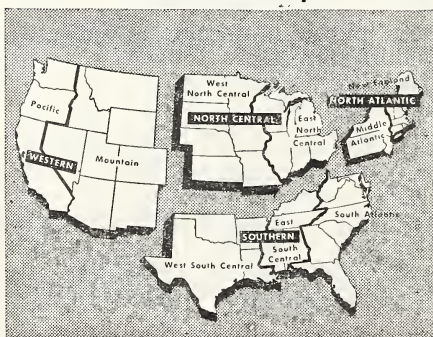
Growth Through Agricultural Progress

May 1962

In This Issue

	Page
The Farmer—USDA Crop Reporting Team Is 100 Years Old...	1
Farm Population Now 14,-800,000	3
Forty Years Since Volume 1, Number 1	4
Outlook	6
Cattle On Feed Increase	7
Last Year's Farm Fire Losses	8
Glenn D. Simpson Succeeds S. R. Newell	9
The Fats And Oils Situation Marks 25th Year Of Publication	10
Referendum Set For Turkey Marketing Orders	11
Farmers Put 48 Million Acres In Feed Grain And Wheat Programs	12
Farm Income And Prices Still Look Favorable for '62	13
The Farmer's Share	13
Lower Egg Prices Help Keep Consumption Up	14
Meet The State Statistician, George Strong	15

All Articles May Be
Reprinted Without Permission
Editor: William Whyte



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID